

BAKEWELL
Urban District Council.

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

FOR
THE YEAR 1897.

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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.

VERNON R. COCKERTON,
CLERK.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1897

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE BAKEWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my report on what will be looked back upon as an eventful year in the Council's as well as the Country's history.

Deaths.—During the year 1897 there have been 56 deaths, but excluding the deaths at the Workhouse of people belonging to other districts, and deaths of persons not belonging to Bakewell, there were 43, viz., 27 males, and 16 females—a deathrate of 15 per 1000 of population.

Births.—The births were 82 in number, viz., 41 males and 41 females—equal to a birthrate of 28·6 per 1000.

The infantile mortality was 122 per 1000 births.

The zymotic deathrate was 2·1, 3 deaths occurring from Scarlatina, 1 from Enteric Fever, 1 from Measles, and 1 from Diarrhoea. The Scarlatina mortality was 4 per cent. of the cases notified.

Notifiable Infectious Disease.—100 cases of infectious disease were notified, viz., 75 of Scarlatina, 22 of Erysipelas, 2 of Enteric Fever, 1 of Diphtheria.

Scarlatina.—Special reports on the Scarlatina Epidemic which had begun in the previous September, were furnished in March and July, by order of the Local Government Board. Since then only 8 cases have occurred. On May 21st the Temporary Isolation Hospital was opened, and 7 patients were treated there. The Hospital shortly after being opened, was placed in charge of a trained Nurse, and was kept open till August 20, when you directed it to be closed. The absence of any legal means to compel persons to go to it, prevented it being further utilised: the fact that a person has suitable lodging and accommodation, being apparently a bar to compulsory removal, though there may be no suitable attendant to look after him while ill at home.

Disinfection.—The Health Committee of the County Council having called attention to the unreliability of Sulphur Fumigation as a means of disinfecting rooms after Scarlatina and recommended the use of the Geneste Herscher Spray with Corrosive Sublimate Solution as a more reliable method, you provided me with an apparatus which was used on several occasions, and appeared to work well, but after a few weeks this was returned, though the epidemic had not ceased. It certainly is a more troublesome method than fumigation, and perhaps not suited for large lofty rooms, but is very thorough when carefully done, but the brief period it was in use did not enable any decided opinion to be formed as to its superiority to fumigation by Sulphur. All the cases have been disinfected by the Inspector of Nuisances, or by a Medical man.

Schools.—The heads of Schools (Day and Sunday) have been notified by me of any Scarlatina cases occurring in houses where their Scholars live, and such Scholars have been prohibited from attending school. The Lady Manners School was closed for three weeks and fumigated, and the National and Wesleyan Schools for a like period in the Spring, on account of illness among the Scholars.

Mumps and Whooping Cough were very prevalent in the Spring, and Influenza was not absent.

Erysipelas.—22 cases of Erysipelas is a large percentage, and can only be attributed to generally unhealthy surroundings as they were distributed throughout the year, and not confined to any particular locality.

Enteric Fever.—The two cases were unconnected, defective drainage arrangements were found in each case.

Diphtheria.—The single case which was verified by bacteriological diagnosis was of uncertain origin, as the drainage arrangements of the house were in good order.

The Inspector has visited every case of notified disease and recorded particulars as to the state of the premises, in accordance with the wishes of the Health Committee of your Council.

Bye-laws.—Perhaps the greatest advance of the year has been the adoption, after mature consideration, of the new Model Bye-laws, with respect to Slaughterhouses, New Streets and Buildings, and Cleansing of Footways and Pavements. These, if carried out, will do much to improve the Sanitary condition of the town, and prevent the further erection of the large, deep privy-ashpits, of which too many are in existence.

Scavenging.—The Council is to be congratulated on having decided to undertake the emptying of privies and ash-pits, but this must be accompanied by a reconstruction of the insanitary and out-of-date ones, and a reduction in size where required, as the object of all the bye-laws on the subject, is to allow only small accumulations of refuse, especially when in very close proximity to dwellings, and to remove these at short intervals.

Infectious Hospital.—The Council have supported a joint Hospital Scheme for the whole neighbourhood, which is making progress. My December report contained the following note: "The Temporary Hospital has been re-lined, re-roofed, and otherwise made warmer and more suitable for use."

Inspection.—The Slaughterhouses and Bakehouses have been inspected and found clean generally. One Slaughter house is from its situation quite unsuitable.

The town sewers and open drains have been cleared out and many old rubble drains have been replaced by glazed pipes; three cesspools have been abolished; one privy has been replaced by a pail closet, and in connection with this I cannot refrain from expressing my regret that you have sanctioned pailclosets for the houses in New Street, which have had water closets for several years; several privies are in process of reconstruction; two houses have been closed as unfit for habitation.

One case of overcrowding in a workshop, noted by the Factory Inspector, has been abated.

Legal Proceedings.—A conviction has been obtained in a case of wilful exposure while suffering from Scarlatina—this apparently had a good effect.

Complaints have been made of the smells from the sewers, some of these appear to be due to the trapped gullies being used for throwing offensive liquid into. Steps are being taken to ventilate the sewers more freely where possible.

The large scale map of the District might advantageously be used for recording the position of sewers and drains.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Gathering Ground is an elevated table-land situated to the left of the road leading from Rowsley to Chesterfield, forming part of Beeley Moor, and is about 1000 feet above the sea.

The geological formation is Millstone grit, and the soil a sandy peat, covered in places with heather, furze, and bilberry bushes.

There are no habitations or buildings on it, and very few cattle roam over it.

There are no open streams or water-courses, in fact this is almost an ideal gathering ground, as the risk of contamination of the water is very small indeed. This portion of the moor is enclosed on the north, south, and west sides by a stone wall.

Falings Springs and Tank.—Less than a mile to the east of Rowsley Station, and on the westerly edge of the moor, where it slopes down towards the Derwent valley, and at about 870 feet above the sea, is situated a sandstone tank about 4 feet by 10 feet, covered over, and divided transversely across the middle by a vertical removable copper-mesh screen which acts as a filter for leaves, &c., should any find their way in. This is removed and cleaned once a month.

The Spring water is delivered into the east side of this tank by a 9 inch glazed pipe, which is continued up the hill for about 140 yards. A byc-wash takes the over-flow water.

From the west side of this tank a 5 inch and a 3 inch iron pipe convey the water to the reservoir, situated by the side of the old road leading from Bakewell to Rowsley, below the Manners' wood, and nearly two miles from Bakewell.

The Service Reservoir is about 600 feet above the sea, is fenced round, and no surface water enters. It is about 48 yards long, 12 wide, and 4 deep, and the bottom is paved. It is not covered over. A 5 inch iron main conveys the water hence to Bakewell.

For some years the supply to the higher parts of the town has been deficient, and in 1893 the Council consulted an engineer (Mr. Sykes) who reported that on Oct. 31, 1893, about 76,500 gallons in 24 hours reached the reservoir from the Falinge springs, and that there was no leakage between the Falinge and the reservoir; that about 1,500 gallons were conveyed elsewhere by the bye-wash at the tank; and that the total supply by the springs was about 78,000 gallons in 24 hours. He estimated that there was sufficient water to provide about 26 gallons per head for the population of to-day. This is sufficient but not too much. He recommended a Dracon's waste-water meter for detecting waste, at an estimated cost of £32, and stated that he believed that the upper portions of the town would have an ample supply were leakages in distribution stopped. His recommendation was not acted on, but a few water meters were fixed experimentally.

During the past year several sources of leakage in the mains have been detected and remedied, and the supply to the higher parts of the town is improved in consequence. There are now about 530 houses in the Urban District, of these about 498 are in the area of the water supply, the rest are scattered over a large area, and are otherwise supplied. Of these 498 about 26 have not a constant supply, and they form about 5 per cent. of the whole number. They all have an abundant supply during the night, but on certain days and at certain hours it is deficient.

Quality.—In December last the County Analyst reported that in his opinion this water was clear and bright, soft, and free from lead, and suitable and well adapted for the supply of a community.

Next year I hope to be able to give a more detailed account of improvements completed.

Your obedient Servant,

February 2, 1898.

C. W. EVANS.

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TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,
Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the Urban Sanitary
District of Bakewell, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	Population at all ages.			Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality.				Number of such cases removed from their homes in the several localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1897.				Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.	
BAKEWELL }	2748	2860	76	Under 5 5 upwards	15	3	1	2	20	4
UNION WORKHOUSE . }	2748	2860	82	Under 5 5 upwards	15	3	1	2	22	4
TOTALS										

The "Notification of Infectious Disease" has been compulsory in the District since 1890.
Temporary Isolation Hospital at Bakewell and also at Workhouse.

